Ms. Clark-Cadwell and Ms. Cancino English 11- October 19, 2015

Timed Writing: Rationalism in the Declaration of Independence

The purpose of a timed writing is to record your thoughts on paper, therefore, your primary focus should be on recording your thoughts and ideas on the page in a free-flowing manner. Do not worry about correcting mistakes or choosing just the right words—the ideas are the focus right now. This particular timed writing requires you to *synthesize* information from various sources from our Rationalism unit, therefore, you will need your PowerPoint notes, Benjamin Franklin packet, the Declaration of Independence, and all other related activity sheets.

**Prompt**

Thomas Jefferson and his co-authors were Rationalists. **Where in the Declaration of Independence are the political and philosophical assumptions of Rationalism most evident?** Write 3-4 paragraphs using textual evidence to support your claim. You may use the following example sentence frame as a guide:

*Ex: Rationalists believed that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This belief is also demonstrated on page \_\_\_, paragraph 2 of the Declaration of Independence, where Jefferson writes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. His statement here reflects his belief that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

*Another Rationalist belief that is reflected in the Declaration of Independence is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This is most obvious on page \_\_\_, paragraph 1, where Jefferson asserts \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This is consistent with the Rationalist view because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

Any questions?

Gather your thoughts and all of your notes!

Write ☺

**Homework:** Type this timed writing in MLA format, using correct spelling and punctuation, and clarifying meaning where necessary. Remember, you must submit your handwritten copy as a rough draft!